

Opening Weekend A Success At Jordanelle

by Tom Noffsinger

With the swish of a blue ribbon, snipped by three pairs of giant scissors, the Hailstone recreation area of the Jordanelle State Park was opened for business Thursday morning. Local State Parks Board Member Lucille Tuttle helped cut the ribbon, bringing to an end more than 30 years of planning and construction on the dam project.

Several hundred people gathered for Thursday's opening ceremonies, including family members with the names Hailstone, Jordan and Keetly. Those families, and others, originally settled and farmed the valley now lying dormant under some 300 feet of water.

Speakers such as Courtland Nelson, director of State Parks, Lt. Gov. Olene Walker and Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Charles Calhoun addressed the crowd prior to the ribbon cutting, saying the park represents the best Utah has to offer.

By all accounts the grand opening was a success. At 5:30 a.m. Friday, traffic was backed up from the main gate at Hailstone to Highway 40, as fishermen awaited

the 6:00 a.m. park opening. Many anglers resorted to parking along the highway and hiking down steep cliffs to the reservoir to take a few of the 15,000 fish the Division of Wildlife Resources estimates were caught Friday. Reports of six-pound trout and anglers catch-and-releasing more than 50 fish brought even more people to the reservoir on Saturday.

The park opened for camping Thursday afternoon and for fishing on Friday morning. Starting Saturday, the water was opened to personal water craft and pleasure boaters. By 9:00 a.m. on Friday, the reservoir reached the 300 boat limit and fisherman were not allowed to launch additional boats.

Mary Tullius with the State Park's Public Affairs Office says between 30,000 and 35,000 people entered the park on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. "There were people lined up at the doors to the visitor's center," said Ms. Tullius. The park actually turned people away twice on Sunday, due to the large crowds.

For camping reservations at the park, call 800-322-3770. The

Hailstone site may be reached by calling 649-9540.

Jordanelle Statistics:

- Currently more than 2,400 acres of surface water, 3,300 acres at total fill level. Normal level will result in 3,024 acres.

- More than 213,000 acre-feet of water is currently being stored, with a maximum holding capacity of 372,000 acre-feet.

- The fill date of the reservoir is predicted for the summer of 1997.

- The dam itself cost \$114 million, the road relocation cost \$126 million.

- The reservoir extends about five miles toward the Provo River and about four and a half miles toward Drain Tunnel Creek.

- Recreation facilities cost \$18 million.

- Almost 1.2 million fish have been stocked in the reservoir in the past three years.

- Hailstone boasts 186 campsites of varying levels, 80 boat slips, 40 day use pavilions, mini Laundromats and a children's playground.

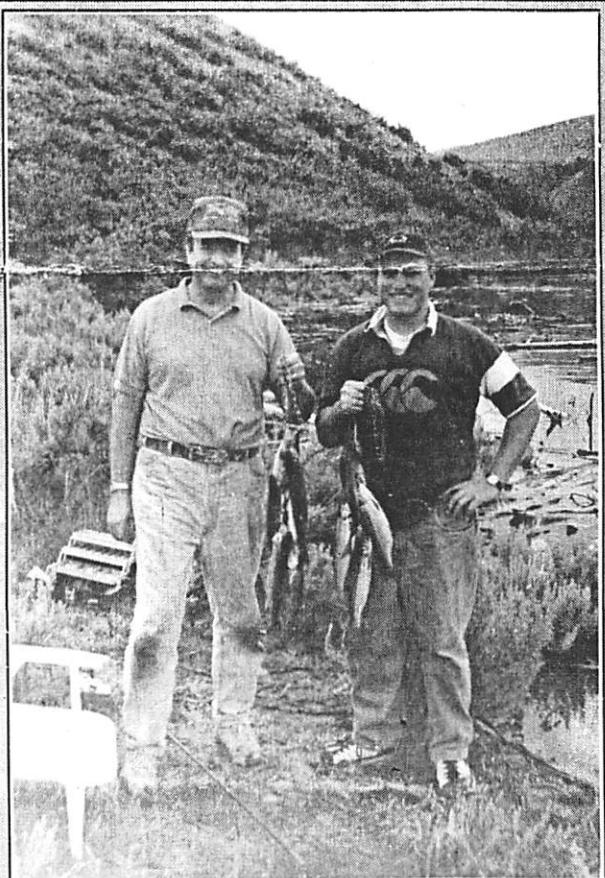
Jordanelle Creates Traffic Problems

The Utah Highway Patrol is asking for help in alleviating some special traffic problems resulting from the large number of vacationers visiting the new Jordanelle recreation area.

A number of visitors are parking their vehicles along both sides of Highway 40 and in the center median. The visitors then walk across the highway with their fishing and camping gear. Some drivers are unaware how dangerous it is to both park and walk on the freeway.

With safety in mind, Utah law prohibits drivers from stopping or parking their cars anywhere on the freeway, except in an emergency. Even a brief stop distracts other drivers and impedes traffic, creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians.

Early Monday morning, the Utah Highway Patrol began issuing warning notices and parking tickets. Abandoned and parked vehicles may be towed as the Highway Patrol attempts to maintain safe conditions along Highway 40. Visitor parking at Jordanelle State Park is readily available by taking the Mayflower exit off Highway 40. Visitors may also enter the park through Rock Cliff campground, located off Highway 32 between Heber City and Francis. The park opens at 6:30 a.m. daily.



Fishing Success!

Ken Seegmiller and his son, Darin, enjoyed a successful opening day Friday at the Jordanelle Reservoir. The Midvale pair reeled in their limit of 16 trout in less than two hours. The fish, all in the 12 to 15 inch range, were caught along the perimeter trail about a mile and a half from the Rock Cliff site.

